

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An information processing apparatus for controlling, in accordance with speech commands input by the user, a plurality of electronic apparatuses on a network connected to said information processing apparatus, said information processing apparatus comprising:

command definition information obtaining means for obtaining command definition information which defines the correspondence between a plurality of speech commands which are to be input by the user and a plurality of control commands for controlling said plurality of electronic apparatuses;

storage means for storing said command definition information obtained by said command definition information obtaining means;

speech recognition means for recognizing a speech command input by the user;

determining means for determining a control command corresponding to the speech command as recognized by said speech recognition means, based on said command definition information stored in said storage means; and

control means for controlling one of said plurality of electronic apparatuses using the control command determined by said determining means.

2. An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said command definition information is associated with ID information of said plurality of electronic apparatuses.

3. An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said command definition information defines, on the basis of operation status of said plurality of electronic apparatuses, acceptable speech commands, control commands corresponding to the speech commands, and transitions of operation status which occur on execution of each of the control commands.

4. An information processing apparatus according to Claim 3, wherein said determining means comprises operation status detecting means for detecting the operation status of said plurality of electronic apparatuses, whereby said determining means determines, in accordance with the operation status of said plurality of electronic apparatuses detected by said operation status detecting means, the control command corresponding to the speech command as recognized by said speech recognition means, based on said command definition information.

5. An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, wherein said command definition information obtaining means obtains said command definition information from a server on the Internet or from a storage medium.

6. An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising ID information obtaining means for obtaining ID information of said plurality of electronic apparatuses,

wherein said command definition information obtaining means obtains said command definition information based on the ID information of said plurality of electronic apparatuses obtained by said ID information obtaining means.

7. An information processing apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said ID information includes at least one of node ID, product ID, machine ID, and type ID.

8. An information processing apparatus according to Claim 6, wherein said command definition information obtaining means obtains said command definition information based on node ID, product ID, machine ID, or type ID, in that order of priority, included in the ID information of said plurality of electronic apparatuses obtained by said ID information obtaining means.

9. An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising connection status detecting means for detecting the connection status of said plurality of electronic apparatuses,

wherein said command definition information obtaining means obtains and deletes said command definition information based on the connection status of said plurality of electronic apparatuses detected by said connection status detecting means.

10. An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising selecting means for allowing the user to select one of said plurality of electronic apparatuses,

wherein said determining means is allowed to determine the control command corresponding to the speech command as recognized by said speech recognition means, based on only part of said command definition information corresponding to the electronic apparatus selected by said selecting means.

11. An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising control command history storage means for storing history information regarding the control command determined by said determining means,

wherein an electronic apparatus in accordance with a user input or an electronic apparatus which is found to be most recently operated according to the history information stored in said control command history storage means is controlled using the control command, if it is not otherwise determined which of said plurality of electronic apparatuses be controlled using the control command.

12. An information processing apparatus according to Claim 1, further comprising command definition information generation means for generating command definition information as desired,

wherein said command definition information obtaining means is allowed to obtain said command definition information from said command definition information generation means.

13. An information processing method in an information processing apparatus for controlling, in accordance with speech commands input by the user, a plurality of electronic apparatuses on a network connected to said information processing apparatus, said information processing method comprising the steps of:

obtaining command definition information which defines the correspondence between a plurality of speech commands

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which are to be input by the user and a plurality of control commands for controlling said plurality of electronic apparatuses;

storing said command definition information obtained in the command definition information obtaining step;

recognizing a speech command input by the user;

determining a control command corresponding to the speech command as recognized in the speech recognition step, based on said command definition information stored in said storing step; and

controlling one of said plurality of electronic apparatuses using the control command determined in the determining step.

14. A computer-readable storage medium storing a computer program for controlling an information processing apparatus which controls, in accordance with speech commands input by the user, a plurality of electronic apparatuses on a network connected to said information processing apparatus, said computer program comprising the steps of:

obtaining command definition information which defines the correspondence between a plurality of speech commands which are to be input by the user and a plurality of control commands for controlling said plurality of electronic apparatuses;

recognizing a speech command input by the user;

controlling one of said plurality of electronic apparatuses using the control command determined in the determining step.